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6 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: []
EE DIVISION

SUBJECT: Operational Control of Aircraft in the Event of War.

REFERENCE: Top Secret Memo for the Record, 7 March 1950;
Subject: "Meeting on OPC long range requirements."
T. S. # 38553.

1. Information concerning the operational control of aircraft in the event of war, has been received from the Air Force. This information confirms the policy previously furnished orally. To reiterate this position the information is as follows:

a. Military control of all equipment in case of war is determined by the war plans in existence at the time of war. These plans are formulated in times of peace in order that the maximum use of available equipment can be made in times of an emergency. In order to accomplish this the responsibilities are divided among the several agencies responsible for the national defense. Each agency then formulates its plans for prosecution of its responsibilities. The military being too unwieldy for one central plan, divides its assigned areas and responsibilities into subordinate commands furnishing each of these subordinate commands with a mission and responsibilities. It is the subordinate commanders responsibility to formulate his war plans in connection with the local circumstances within the framework of the mission assigned to him. It is a long established military principle for the commander to be left with complete authority to formulate these plans, therefore, any exceptions or specific tasks are not assigned to the commanders except by an ammendment to the war plans, for direction in detail would result in unwieldy central control.

2. The fact that a commander states that he intends to take over control of all aircraft within his jurisdiction is a normal procedure for an area commander. However, this control will be exercised in

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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accordance with the war plans formulated to utilize existing equipment in the best possible manner in accordance with the assigned mission. This mission includes the support of OPC/CIA.

3. The Air Force is anxious to extend all possible help to the activities of OPC and desires to be as helpful as possible, however, in view of the military planning cycle and general military procedures, it is recommended that the OPC/CIA representative in the area in question coordinate the OPC requirements with the commander of the area to assure that OPC/CIA war plan requirements are included in the area war plans rather than requesting JCS or Air Force to implement the area war plans from Washington.

4. This method is in conformance with agreements previously made with the N.M.E.

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